



National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Memphis, TN

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

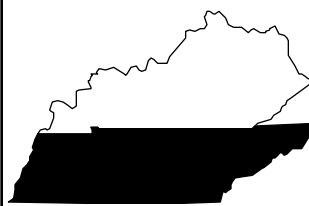
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the City of Memphis, in Shelby County, as a Brownfields Pilot. Shelby County lacks an agency with county-wide responsibility for organized redevelopment of brownfields. To address this need, city, county, and state authorities have agreed to form a quasi-public, non-profit development corporation, the Memphis Brownfields Restoration Corporation (MBRC). The MBRC will address the high number of tax-delinquent, derelict industrial properties in Shelby County and will help support the city's and county's "balanced growth policy," which seeks to limit sprawl through reuse of urban industrial properties. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are more than 100 brownfields sites in Memphis.

The pilot will target the abandoned Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Site, which occupies 88 acres and 1.5 million square feet of building space in the North Memphis Enterprise Community. Vacant since 1983, the plant has significantly contributed to economic distress in the adjacent New Chicago neighborhood. Its closure caused the loss of more than 1,500 manufacturing and precision operator jobs between 1980 and 1990, as well as declines in residential neighborhood populations and reduction of residential property values.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Memphis, Tennessee

Date of Award:
April 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The pilot will address various brownfields throughout Shelby County with initial focus on a former tire manufacturing plant located on 88 acres in the North Memphis Enterprise Community.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

OBJECTIVES

Memphis' goal is to focus on brownfields redevelopment through the MBRC. The MBRC will take ownership of abandoned, tax-delinquent industrial properties, conduct environmental assessments, secure funds for environmental remediation, undertake reuse and redevelopment planning, and sponsor a series of educational forums on brownfields. Brownfields pilot activities will be coordinated with the MBRC.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Performing an environmental assessment and characterization of the Firestone pilot site;
- Developing a plan for remediation and reuse of the Firestone site;
- Conducting community outreach and environmental education; and
- Developing a database of site-specific information on environmental conditions and redevelopment potential.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.